

I strongly oppose the elimination of the telegraphy requirement for access to the Amateur Radio HF bands. The premise that the Morse code keeps many new Amateurs from obtaining their license because it is too difficult is false. My eight year old granddaughter learned to send her first and last name in Morse in 15 minutes! I have been licensed for 29 years now. I obtained my novice call in 1976 and one year later became an Extra Class Amateur at 20 WPM. I went through all five license classes' novice, technician, general, advanced, extra at 5, 13, 20 WPM code speeds. I had to work at it, but it was not an "impossible" task as some have referred to in their comments. The five wpm code requirement that is now required for Extra Class is a joke the General Class could be five wpm but the Extra Class should be at least 13wpm. Has anyone examined the reciprocal license problem? Many countries in the world still require a knowledge of Morse to obtain a license. If there is no Morse requirement in the USA a visiting US Amateur could not obtain a reciprocal license in that country. Morse code is still the most efficient mode in the Amateur Radio spectrum. I use a small QRP radio (low power) it only has 5 watts output (think of how bright a 5 watt lightbulb would be ) it only has one mode CW (Morse code). I have talked to many Amateurs in Europe and South America on the 20 meter band using this radio and a gell cell battery and a wire antenna strung in the trees. Now think of New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina, no power and no communications. All that would be required is this simple radio and a car battery a group of flash light batteries some wire for an antenna. Oh yes, and a knowledge of Morse code! There is already a license for those who do not want to learn code. The "no code technician". I strongly feel if this implemented it will do great harm to the Amateur Radio Community.

Respectfully

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